List of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A color imaging system comprising:

a color imager having a plurality of photocells producing electrical responses that correspond to chromatic intensity values, and the electrical responses from the plurality of photocells together comprising a captured color image; and

an image processor that white-balances the captured color image to generate a white-balanced color image by multiplying each red, green or blue photocell value by one of red, green or blue white-balance coefficients, respectively, and without interpolating each red, green or blue photocell value with values from other photocells, wherein the image processor and determines whether the white-balanced color captured image is substantially achromatic gray-scale, and if so, renders the image processor converts each of the electrical responses chromatic intensity values to a gray-scale as an achromatic luminance value.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The color imaging system of claim 1, wherein the image processor is further configured to determine whether the white-balanced color image is substantially achromatic image is a black-and-white image, and the achromatic

~~format is~~, and if so, ~~renders~~ <u>the image processor converts each of the chromatic intensity</u>

<u>values as</u> a black-and-white ~~format~~ <u>luminance value.</u>

Claim 6 (Original): The color imaging system of claim 1, wherein the color image

capture device is a scanner having a constant, known light source.

Claim 7 (Original): The color imaging system of claim 1, wherein the color image

capture device and image processing circuitry are disposed within a single device.

Claim 8 (Original): The color imaging system of claim 1, further comprising a

switch that allows a user to select from among a plurality of white-balance settings.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The color imaging system of claim 1, further

comprising an image-type specification control that allows a user to select from among a

plurality of image format<u>s</u> that determine<u>s</u> how the ~~achromatic~~ image <u>processor</u> ~~is~~

~~rendered~~ <u>converts the white-balanced color image.</u>

Claims 10-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method of processing ~~an~~ a color image that is captured by a plurality of photocells producing electrical responses that correspond to ~~as~~ a plurality of chromatic intensity values, the method comprising:

white-balancing the plurality of chromatic intensity values to generate a white-balanced color image by multiplying each red, green or blue photocell value by one of red, green or blue white-balance coefficients, respectively, and without interpolating each red, green or blue photocell value with values from other photocells;

determining whether the ~~plurality of chromatic intensity values comprises~~ white-balanced color image is a substantially ~~achromatic~~ gray-scale image; and

converting the plurality of chromatic ~~luminance~~ intensity values to a plurality of ~~achromatic~~ gray-scale luminance values if the plurality of chromatic ~~luminance~~ intensity values are determined to ~~comprise~~ be a substantially ~~achromatic~~ gray-scale image.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 16, further comprising detecting whether the image is a substantially black-and-white image, and if the image is detected to be a substantially black-and-white image, converting the plurality of chromatic ~~luminance~~ intensity values to a plurality of black and white values.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of computing mean and standard deviation values of a color saturation distribution of the image, and comparing the mean and standard deviation values to a plurality of threshold values to detect whether the image is substantially ~~achromatic~~ gray-scale.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~16~~ 18, further comprising the steps of computing mean and standard deviation values of a luminance distribution of the image and comparing the mean and standard deviation values to a plurality of threshold values to detect whether the image is a substantially black and white image.

Claims 21-23 (Cancelled)